

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): François-Xavier Nuttall Docket No.: 11245.00053

Application No.: Group Art Unit: 3642

Filing Date: Examiner: Unknown

TITLE METHOD FOR COMPUTER NETWORK OPERATION PROVIDING
BASIS FOR USAGE FEES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Commissioner:

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Drawing

Please replace informal drawings Fig. 1-20 with the formal drawings Fig. 1-20 (copy attached) filed on June 16, 1998 in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/055,060 filed on April 3, 1998.

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 2, line 20, replace “from” with --between--.

At page 6, line 14, replace “and” with --that are--.

At page 6, line 28, before “distinguishes” insert --118--.

At page 6, line 31, before “allocates” insert --118--.

At page 6, line 32, before “then” insert --118--.

At page 8, line 16, delete “a”.

At page 11, line 24, after “addresses” insert --and the content managing node address--.

At page 12, line 30, after “complete.” insert --Further requests for files may be made in response to receiving an acknowledgement that the summary report has been received by the event reporting node.--.

At page 14, line 24, after “336” insert --describing what content files were sent and when sent--.

At page 15, line 31, replace “no report is” with --one or more of the expected reports is not timely--.

In the Claims

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1-8 and add the following claims:

1 9. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a
2 reconciling node, the method comprising:

3 receiving via a network a first report, the first report being provided in response to
4 a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a content requesting
5 node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier;

6 receiving via the network a second report that originated from a content managing
7 node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

8 comparing the value and the transaction identifier; and

9 transmitting onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account
10 corresponding to the payee identifier.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the
2 difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting
3 node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein receiving the first report comprises:

2 receiving via the network a plurality of records; and

3 determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

1 12. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a
2 reconciling node, the method comprising:

3 receiving via a network a plurality of first reports, each first report being provided
4 in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing

5 node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective transaction identifier
6 and a respective first tracking value;

7 receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report
8 originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a
9 respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

10 identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the
11 particular reports have corresponding tracking values.

12 comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and the
13 respective value of the particular second report; and

14 transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with the
15 comparison.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein each tracking value comprises an address of the
2 content requesting node.

1 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the method further comprises:

2 receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising
3 indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

4 detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid
5 transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely
6 received.

1 15. The method of claim 12 wherein the method further comprises:

2 receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report comprising
3 indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

4 detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid
5 transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not
6 originated in a predetermined sequence.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein:

2 the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

3 each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective
4 event reporting node; and
5 the method further comprises transmitting a second message via the network from
6 which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in sequence
7 detection.

1 17. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a first
2 computer system, the method comprising:

3 receiving via a network a first report, the first report being provided in response to
4 a transaction that transferred via the network the digital work from a second computer system to
5 a third computer system, the first report comprising a transaction identifier;

6 receiving via the network a second report that originated from a fourth computer
7 system, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

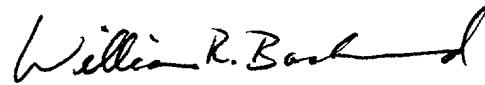
8 comparing the value and the transaction identifier; and

9 transmitting onto the network a message enabling a credit to an account
10 corresponding to the payee identifier.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 9 - 17 are pending. No new matter is submitted. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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